

22. (Amended) A communications network node as claimed in claim 20 which further comprises an application programming interface arranged to allow the computer software code to interact with the SIP client.

23. (Amended) A communications network node as claimed in claim 20 wherein said processor further comprises a detector arranged to detect and indicator in a received SIP message which indicates that computer software code is associated with that SIP message.

Remarks

The examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow regarding the examiner's requirements for election.

First of all, in order to be properly responsive to the election requirement, the applicant elects, with traverse, the specie of Figures 1 through 5. Claims 1 through 33 read on that specie.

All five species are linked by a single inventive concept, which is the improved SIP whereby a SIP message associated with executable code is sent to a node and executed there. All the 33 claims can be read on to the Figures 1 to 5 specie.

The description of Figure 6, at page 19, lines 17 to 26, is consistent with the invention defined in Claim 1 and with Figures 1 to 5.

The description of Figure 7, at page 21, lines 8 to 14, again corresponds to the language of Claim 1 and is consistent with Figures 1 to 5.

The same applies to the description of Figure 8, at page 25, lines 17 to 24.

The description of Figure 9, at page 24, line 20 to page 25, line 2, relates to a method of testing members of a group of SIP clients, and corresponds to Claim 32. Whereas Claims 1 to 31 and 33 require the SIP message associated with software code to be sent from one of the SIP clients, this is not required in Claim 32: the test system may be located elsewhere, and this may be deduced from the description from page 24, line 3. Nonetheless, the obvious example of the implementation of this is with the invention of Claim 1 and it is true to say that the invention is illustrated by Figures 1 to 5.

Finally, the Figure 10 embodiment is described at page 23, lines 10 to 20, and this clearly embodies the invention of Claim 1 and is consistent with Figures 1 to 5.

Given the above, it is submitted that a single inventive concept is found throughout the application, and the indication that there is no generic specie is

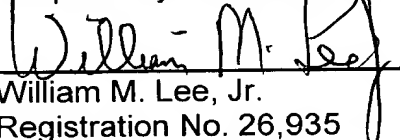
incorrect. Figures 1 through 5 is the generic specie, and reconsideration of the requirement for election is therefore requested.

In reviewing the application, errors were noted, and therefore the dependencies of claims 21 through 23 have been changed, appropriately, and a typographical error in the specification has been corrected, as well.

Further action by the examiner is awaited.

January 20, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


William M. Lee, Jr.

Registration No. 26,935

Barnes & Thornburg

P.O. Box 2786

Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786

(312) 368-6620

(312) 368-0034 (fax)

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

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A test system (for example, software located at one of the nodes 10 in the communications network 1), which may be an automated software service, creates a Java mobile agent, associates this with a SIP message, and sends that SIP message to one of the SIP clients 11 in the group. The Java mobile agent executes on the receiving SIP client and sets up one or more test sessions. The results of these test sessions are stored by the Java mobile agent in its private data, together with any other required information. The Java mobile agent then associates itself with another SIP message and arranges that this SIP message be sent to another SIP client in the group. When the SIP message reaches another SIP client the process of obtaining information is repeated so that more information is added to the Java mobile agent's private data. Another SIP message is used to send the Java mobile agent on to another SIP client and so on, until all the SIP clients in the group have been visited. Once all the SIP [client's] clients in the group have been visited by the Java mobile agent, this agent associates itself with a SIP message in order to be sent back to the originating SIP client. The Java mobile agent may also be arranged to initiate other actions to fix any faults that it finds as it finds them.

Claims:

21. (Amended) A communications network node as claimed in claim [15] 20 wherein said processor comprises a Java virtual machine.

22. (Amended) A communications network node as claimed in claim [15] 20 which further comprises an application programming interface arranged to allow the computer software code to interact with the SIP client.

23. (Amended) A communications network node as claimed in claim [15] 20 wherein said processor further comprises a detector arranged to detect and indicator in a received SIP message which indicates that computer software code is associated with that SIP message.